

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 6-15 are pending with claims 10-15 withdrawn from examination.

Claims 1, 3 and 6 are amended and claims 2, 4 and 5 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter found therein. In addition, the specification is amended to correct minor informalities found therein. Further, Fig. 5 is corrected as suggested in paragraph 1, on page 2 of the Office Action and a corrected replacement sheet is provided. It is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings therefore be withdrawn.

In paragraph 3, on page 2 of the Office Action claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specific language in claim 1 was identified as forming the basis for the rejection. Claim 1 has been amended responsive to the rejection. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 10, on page 8 of the Office Action it was indicated that claim 5 would be allowable if claim 1 was rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and claim 5 was amended to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1, rather than claim 5, has been amended. Claim 1 as amended includes the features of claims 1, 2, 4 and 5. It is submitted that that Amendment does include all of the subject matter shown in Fig. 5. Further, it is submitted that claim 1 as amended clearly distinguishes over the applied references.

In paragraph 6, on page 3 of Office Action, claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tolonen et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,683,095; in paragraph 7, on page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wenz, U.S. Patent No. 4,731,004; in paragraph 8 on page 5 of

the Office Action, claims 1-3, 6, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wenz in view of Corbett, U.S. Patent No. 3,398,431; and in paragraph 9, on page 6 of the Office Action, claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura, JP 11-240081, or U.S. Patent No. 6,294,119 in view of Japan '426, JP 11-20426. The rejections have been rendered moot by the amendment to claim 1 to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and by incorporating the features of claims 2, 4 and 5 therein. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3 and 6-9 are earnestly solicited. Further, it is respectfully requested that claims 10-15 be rejoined and allowed.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SMS/kap

Attachment:
Replacement Sheet

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 5 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 5.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet